REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to examination of this application on the merits.

<u>Amendments</u>

The first line of the specification was amended to recite the claimed priority for this application.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete the phrase "comprising the step."

Claims 4, 5, 9, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended to delete multiple dependency.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-18 are now pending in this application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Date Feb 4 2000

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Respectfully submitted,

Agent for Applicant
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